

AC/RC Partnership Vignette

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The most important integration of the Total Army happens at the tactical level. The 155th BCT, MS ARNG and the 3rd Brigade / 1st Cavalry Division recently demonstrated this at a combined arms, joint live fire exercise at Camp Shelby, MS.

This partnership began when COL Jeff Van, Commander of 155th ABCT, called COL Matthew VanWagener, Commander of 3/1st CD, to implement the partnership established by FORSCOM's training partnership program more than a year prior to this event. As the two commanders worked to develop the training plan, they found key enabler units were eager to join in the training exercise. The active Army's 1-12 CAV (Compo 1) performed the Opposing Force (OPFOR) role during the force on force portion of the Exportable Combat Training Center using MILES gear, and visually modified vehicles and uniforms. Each unit performed their mission essential tasks using common graphics and a common scenario driving day and night operations. The 155th ABCT progressed through the tank tables qualifying individual gunners, crews, sections and culminated with a tank table 12 platoon live fire exercise. The 142nd BfSB (Compo 2) identified targets moving West and called for indirect fire as four M1A1 (SEP) tanks rolled into hull defilade positions. The 2-114th FA (Compo 2) delivered accurate fires disrupting the enemy advance while Ravens flew in support of their company intel collection plan and Shadow assets fed live video of the impacting rounds. Battalion mortars from 1-155th CAB engaged with 120mm mortars. An Attack Weapons Team of Apache helicopters from A/1-149 ARB (Compo 2) engaged dismounted targets with diving rocket fire. Then the tank platoon maneuvered and engaged stationary and moving targets while the Apaches provided hovering over the shoulder direct fire support for the tanks using their 30mm Area Weapons System. Joint Tactical Air Controllers (JTAC's) from the ANG's 238th ASOS controlled the airspace and sustainment functions were provided by the 143rd ESC (Compo 3). Total Army integration happened at Camp Shelby, MS on 4 AUG 15!

"The lessons learned here about successful partnerships—how BCT Cdrs who are "All in" backed up by 2-star leaders who value partnership enough to provide funding to ensure proper coordination occurs – must be codified fully into policy."

COL Jeff Van, Commander, 155th ABCT, MS ARNG